

Licensing Advisors, Unit Heads and Teacher Preparation Colleagues,
October 29, 2013

First of all, thank you for your patience and understanding during the transition from our current test provider, ETS, to our new test provider, Evaluation Systems group of Pearson. As you know, the State Board of Education approved the content and pedagogy assessments that are part of the Indiana CORE Assessments for Educator Licensure program (Indiana CORE Assessments) and their associated cut scores on August 7, 2013. The administrative rule governing the implementation of new tests and scores provides that new tests and scores cannot be applied to candidates until six months following final approval of the tests and scores by the state board. **The content and pedagogy assessments included in the Indiana CORE Assessments will be available for administration starting Monday, February 10, 2014.** Individuals may start registering for these exams on December 4, 2013 on the Indiana CORE Assessments program website. <http://www.in.nesinc.com/Home.aspx>. Below are additional details of our transition plan.

- 1. The new developmental/pedagogy assessments will be required for all applicants beginning Monday, February 10, 2014.** Candidates will be able to register for the pedagogy exams beginning December 4, 2013 on the Indiana CORE Assessments program website. <http://www.in.nesinc.com/Home.aspx>. **Licensure candidates who submit and pay for their applications before February 10, 2014 will not be subject to the pedagogy exam requirement.**
- 2.** As when we transitioned from Praxis I to CASA, there will be a transition period of overlapping ETS Praxis II and Indiana CORE content and pedagogy assessments. We will accept Indiana's approved ETS PRAXIS II content exams until May 31, 2014. **Applicants must have taken the Praxis II exam(s) by May 31, 2014 in order for the exam(s) to be accepted for licensure (assuming the candidate achieves a passing score).** However, candidates may instead choose to take the appropriate Indiana CORE Assessment(s) in their content area(s) any time beginning February 10, 2014.
- 3. Candidates for licensure in early childhood and/ or elementary education that do not pass all required Praxis II tests and subtests prior to the end of the transition period (May 31, 2014) will be required to pass the entire Indiana CORE Assessments in Early Childhood and/or Elementary Education, including all subtests. These candidates will also be required to pass the respective pedagogy exam, which becomes effective February 10, 2014.**
- 4.** Individuals seeking licensure in content areas for which we have not had an approved PRAXIS II exam--for example: theatre, journalism, Latin, Chinese, to name a few--will not be required to take the Indiana CORE Assessment content exam as long as they have **submitted and paid for their application before the end of the transition period (on or before May 31, 2014).** All required documents (CPR, Suicide prevention training) must be attached to the application at the time of its submission. However, applicants for initial licensure in these content areas on or after February 10, 2014 will be required to take and pass a pedagogy exam. **After May 31, 2014, these individuals will be required to take the Indiana CORE Assessment content exam in their content area if one has been approved (Pearson has developed tests in a number of content areas that did not previously have tests).**
- 5.** In regard to Physical Education and Health licensure exams, these two content area exams are in the process of being developed for the Indiana CORE Assessments program by Pearson as

separate exams. These exams will not be ready by the February 10, 2014 date with the rest of the Indiana CORE Assessment exams. We have arranged with ETS for the continued use of their PE, Health and Technology Ed (Computer Ed) PRAXIS II exams until the Indiana CORE Assessments for these fields have been formally approved by the SBOE and have gone through the six month waiting process.

6. **Additions do not require pedagogy exams.** Individuals who wish to add additional content areas to their instructional license with a content specific exam may continue to do so. Once again, the following content areas cannot be added with an exam: Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Fine Arts content areas (i.e. Music, Art, Theatre Arts, etc), Mild Interventions, Intense Interventions, Blind/Low Vision, Deaf/Hard of Hearing, High Ability, Communication Disorder and English as a New Language. The addition of these content areas requires completion of a program of coursework, not just testing.
7. For those students who are in a dual licensure early childhood/mild intervention or elementary/mild intervention program, these students **WILL NOT** take the Exceptional Needs - Mild Intervention Reading Instruction exam. Since they are already taking a reading exam as part of the early childhood or elementary licensure test, we feel that it would be redundant and costly to take another reading exam. However, students that are completing a Mild Intervention P-12 program as a stand alone license or those that are adding Mild Intervention to a secondary license will be required to take the Exceptional Needs - Mild Intervention Reading Instruction exam.
8. Candidates taking the Elementary Education or the Early Childhood content exam with multiple subtests can register to take the subtests individually. It is not necessary for candidates to register to take all 4 subtests for their first test administration. This flexibility will allow candidates to register for individual subtests at any time during their preparation program.

Please feel free to share this memo with your students, staff and all other interested parties. Pearson is developing some additional flyers and FAQ's that will be sent to you in the very near future but we wanted to get this information out to you ASAP. More memos from the IDOE concerning testing will be forthcoming in the next few months. Thank you for your patience.

Thanks for all your support and hard work. If you should have any questions, please email Katie Russo at krusso@doe.in.gov or Risa Regnier at regnier@doe.in.gov.